

SECTION: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, a complete listing of all claims in the application, and their status, is set forth below. The text of each pending claim is also provided. Please amend the pending claims as follows, wherein added matter is underlined and deleted matter is ~~stricken~~ or [[double bracketed]] in the text of the currently amended claims, relative to the immediate prior version. The claims in this listing are deemed to replace all prior claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for acquiring and transporting an object, comprising:
 - a. a housing having a low clearance portion;
 - b. a first conveyance assembly movably connected to the housing for moving the housing with respect to an environmental surface, wherein the first conveyance assembly comprises a lower drive roller connected to the housing and to the power assembly, a lower end idler roller connected to the housing, and a lower endless belt movably coupled to the lower drive roller and the lower end idler roller;
 - c. a second conveyance assembly movably connected to the housing for moving the object with respect to the housing, wherein the second conveyance assembly comprises an upper drive roller connected to the housing and to the power assembly, an upper end idler roller connected to

the housing, and an upper endless belt movably coupled to the upper drive roller and the upper end idler roller; and

- d. a power assembly for moving the conveyance assemblies, wherein the power assembly comprises a battery, a motor communicatively connected to the battery , a transmission connected to the motor, to lower drive roller and to the upper drive roller, and an electronic control system communicatively connected to the motor and to the battery, the transmission having first and second power shafts connected to first and second power sprockets respectively, a first drive chain communicatively connecting the first power sprocket to a lower sprocket on the lower drive roller, and a second drive chain communicatively connecting the second power sprocket to an upper sprocket on the upper drive roller.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the object is an injured human

being.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is configured as a stretcher.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is configured as a guerney.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the housing is a frame for supporting the first and second conveyance mechanisms and the power assembly.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein the frame comprises a pair of chassis sides and a plurality of spacers connecting the chassis sides.

7. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein the frame further comprises a belt glide bed connected to the chassis sides.

8. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein the housing further comprises a handle for lifting the device.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the first conveyance assembly further comprises at least one support idler roller connected to the housing, disposed between the lower drive roller and the lower end idler roller and engaging the lower endless belt.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[11]] 1, wherein the second conveyance assembly further comprises at least one tensioning idler roller connected to

the housing, disposed between the upper drive roller and the upper end idler roller and engaging the upper endless belt.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled).

16. The device of claim 1, further comprising a control system communicatively connected to the power assembly.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~lowe~~ low profile, powered stretcher for acquiring and transporting an injured human being, comprising:

- a. a housing having a low clearance portion, the housing including a pair of chassis sides and a plurality of spacers connecting the chassis sides;
- b. a first conveyance assembly movably connected to the housing for moving the housing with respect to an environmental surface, the first conveyance assembly including a lower drive roller connected to the housing and to the power assembly, a lower end idler roller connected to the housing, and a lower endless belt movably coupled to the lower drive roller and the lower end idler roller, the lower endless belt moving in a first rotational direction;

- c. a second conveyance assembly movably connected to the housing for moving the object with respect to the housing, the second ~~conveyance~~ conveyance assembly including an upper drive roller connected to the housing and to the power assembly, an upper end idler roller connected to the housing, and an upper endless belt movably coupled to the upper drive roller and the upper end idler roller, the upper endless belt moving in a second rotational direction which is opposite the first rotational direction;
~~and~~
- d. a power assembly for moving the conveyance assemblies, the power assembly including a battery, ~~at least one~~ a motor communicatively connected to the battery, a transmission connected to the motor, to lower drive roller and to the upper drive roller, and a an electronic control system communicatively connected to the motor and to the battery, the transmission having first and second power shafts connected to first and second power sprockets respectively, a first drive chain communicatively connecting the first power sprocket to a lower sprocket on the lower drive roller, and a second drive chain communicatively connecting the second power sprocket to an upper sprocket on the upper drive roller;
- e. an actuation control lever communicatively connected to the control system, the control lever being manually rotatable by a user in a forward and a reverse direction corresponding to forward and reverse directions of movement of the stretcher, the control lever being biased to return to a neutral position upon manual release by the user, whereby upon manual

release of the control lever the power assembly decelerates the stretcher to a stop; and

- f. wherein the control system provides a lag period of a predetermined time for accelerating the stretcher from 0 speed to a maximum speed and for decelerating the stretcher from the maximum speed to 0 speed, whereby the stretcher accelerates and decelerates smoothly and avoids sudden starts and stops to minimize trauma to the transported injured human being.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of acquiring and transporting an injured human being, comprising the steps of:

a. acquiring the injured human being on a stretcher by:

[[a]]i. moving a housing the stretcher having a low clearance portion so that the low clearance portion moves toward and under the object, the housing being moved by powering a lower endless belt to move in a first rotational direction; and

[[b]]ii. simultaneously moving the object patient relative to the housing stretcher by powering an upper endless belt to move in a second rotational direction which is opposite the first rotational direction; and

- iii. accelerating the movement of the stretcher lower and upper endless belts over a predetermined period of time from 0 speed to a maximum speed;
and
- b. upon acquiring the injured person on the stretcher, decelerating the stretcher from the maximum speed to 0 speed, whereby the stretcher accelerates and decelerates smoothly and avoids sudden starts and stops to minimize trauma to the transported injured human being.

21. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the lag period time is 5 seconds.

22. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein acceleration and deceleration is linear.

23. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the maximum speed is 0.133 feet per second.

24. (New) The device of claim 20, wherein the lag period time is 5 seconds.

25. (New) The device of claim 20, wherein acceleration and deceleration is linear.

26. (New) The device of claim 20, wherein the maximum speed is 0.133 feet per second.